



League of Michigan Bicyclists

416 South Cedar Street - Suite A, Lansing, MI 48912

jlindenmayer@lmb.org • 888-642-4537

Fax: 517-334-9100 • www.LMB.org

LMB Legislative Priorities (2009 – 2010)

- **Give Michigan Road Cyclists a Brake**
Support: Senate Bills 529 and 530 (GEORGE)
House Bills 4958 (KNOLLENBERG) and 4959 (LELAND)
- **Driver Training Bicycle Safety Component**
Support: Senate Bill 531 (GEORGE)
House Bill 4960 (LELAND)
- **Cell Phone / Texting Ban While Driving**
Support: House Bill 4362 (ROCCA)
House Bill 4369 (POLODORI)
House Bill 4394 (GONZALES)
- **Complete the Streets**
Become a Complete Streets Champion
Support the Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan Complete Streets Agenda
- **Stop the Raid on Act 51**
Protect Non-motorized Funding

Free LMB Publications

- ***What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know***
A safety manual for all Michigan's bicyclists.
- ***Michigan Ride Calendar***
LMB annually publishes and distributes 50,000 Ride Calendars, listing over 150 Michigan bicycle tours and events.
- ***Michigan Bicyclist Magazine***
LMB's quarterly membership publication.

To request additional publications contact LMB Associate Director John Lindenmayer at 1-888-642-4537 or jlindenmayer@LMB.org.



League of Michigan Bicyclists

jlindenmayer@lmb.org • 888-642-4537

416 South Cedar Street - Suite A, Lansing, MI 48912

Fax: 517-334-9100 • www.LMB.org

Give Michigan Road Cyclists a Brake

Support: *House Bills 4958 (KNOLLENBERG) and 4959 (LELAND)* *Senate Bills 529 and 530 (GEORGE)*

Action

The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) again asks the Governor and Michigan Legislature to:

- Enact the same penalties for any traffic violator who commits a moving violation that injures or kills a bicyclist as for injuring or killing a farm-vehicle operator, i.e.:
 - Imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both, for injuring a bicyclist (a misdemeanor).
 - Imprisonment for not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than \$7,500.00, or both, for killing a bicyclist (a felony).
- Make “Safe Routes to School” more than a slogan by making it clear that it is not acceptable to injure or kill a student — or any bicyclist.

Issue

Rising energy prices and concerns about health, fitness and the environment have increased bicyclists on the roads. Motor vehicles and bicycles must share the road. Motorists’ increasingly aggressive driving will only increase bicyclist injuries and deaths.

More bicyclists are reporting “road rage” by motorists. The same penalties should apply to drivers who injure or kill bicyclists as to drivers who injure or kill drivers of similarly slow-moving farm vehicles (who are much less vulnerable than bicyclists).

Convicted drivers can serve as little as days or months for seriously injuring or killing a bicyclist. Judges and prosecutors have few tools for controlling aggressive or reckless drivers. Specific penalties for injuring or killing a bicyclist will deter drivers from endangering bicyclists.

Facts

- 2,188 Michigan bicyclists were involved in motor-vehicle crashes, 1,760 were injured and 17 were killed in 2007 alone. – Source: *Office of Highway Safety Planning*
- Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers but, because they (like farm vehicles) are usually slower than other vehicles, impatient drivers endanger bicyclists lawfully using the roads. This legislation highlights the need for motorists to share the road safely with bicyclists and deters unsafe driving near bicycles.
- The penalties in this legislation give prosecutors and judges additional flexibility in charging and punishing offenders. They are consistent with those established by Public Act No. 103, Public Acts of 2001, for drivers who injure or kill a farm-vehicle operator.

For More Information

To learn more, visit www.LMB.org/AdvocacyCenter.htm or contact LMB Associate Director John Lindenmayer directly at 1-888-642-4537 or jlindenmayer@LMB.org.



League of Michigan Bicyclists

jlindenmayer@lmb.org • 888-642-4537

416 South Cedar Street - Suite A, Lansing, MI 48912 Fax: 517-334-9100 • www.LMB.org

Driver Training Bicycle Safety Component

Support: **Senate Bill 531 (GEORGE)**

House Bill 4960 (LELAND)

Action

The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) asks the Governor and Michigan Legislature to:

- **Require Michigan drivers education to include classroom instruction on the laws pertaining to bicycles and emphasize awareness of the operation of bicycles on the streets, roads, and highways of this state.**

Issue

Drivers and bicyclists are safest when they share the road and follow the same traffic rules. Both have the same rights to be on the road and the same obligations. Drivers and bicyclists should observe speed limits, stop at traffic lights and stop signs, signal when changing lanes, yield the right-of-way where mandated, and maintain safe distances from all vehicles, including bicycles.

However, Michigan's drivers education program does not require new drivers to be educated about bicyclist's rights and responsibilities on the roadways. This leads many incompletely educated motorists to insist incorrectly — and too often violently — that bicyclists belong on sidewalks. Angry motorists regularly threaten cyclists both verbally and physically. Hundreds of Michigan bicyclists are injured or killed each year in automobile/bicycle collisions. Failing to include a bicycle-safety curriculum in the state drivers education program endangers the lives of all roadway users.

Objectives

- To encourage drivers to share the road with bicyclists.
- To reduce car/bicyclist fatalities and injuries through bicycle-awareness training for new drivers.
- To improve new drivers' understanding of safe bicycling and bicyclists' legal right to use Michigan roads.

Facts

- Every year, crashes with motor vehicles kill hundreds of bicyclists on America's roadways and injure thousands more.
- 2,188 Michigan bicyclists were involved in motor-vehicle crashes, 1,760 were injured and 17 were killed in 2007 alone. — Source: *Office of Highway Safety Planning*
- Drivers education and training can significantly reduce common, dangerous driver errors.
- Michigan has over seven million licensed drivers.
- Michigan requires **no** drivers education for drivers 18 or older.
- Driving tests are not administered by the Department of State, but by private third-parties.
- Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing program **does** require drivers under age 18 to complete 24 hours of in-class instruction, six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction, and four hours of observation. This provides ample time for instruction in bicycle safety and sharing Michigan's roadways safely with bicyclists.

For More Information

To learn more, visit www.LMB.org/AdvocacyCenter.htm or contact LMB Associate Director John Lindenmayer directly at 1-888-642-4537 or jlindenmayer@LMB.org.